

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD IV: MFA

REF: HONG KONG 4604

1. DURING INFORMAL LUNCHEON HOSTED FOR CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DEL ROSENTHAL, CONSTANT SHIH, DIRECTOR MTN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT UNCTAD STATED THAT U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO LDC INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE MFA DURING UNCTAD IV IN NAIROBI. SHIH INDICATED THAT LDC DISAFFECTION WITH THE MFA BEGAN WITH ONE EXPORTING COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS WITH AN IMPORTING COUNTRY (READ PAKISTAN AND EEC), RESULTED IN SPECIFIC MANILA DECLARATION LANGUAGE ADDRESSED TO MFA, AND FURTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES' DISCUSSION DURING RECENT ESCAP SPONSORED SEMINAR IN BANGKOK. AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO SHIH, THE ASIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS MFA DURING UNCTAD IV MEETING, AT LEAST AMONG THEMSELVES AND MIGHT RAISE THE MFA DURING THIS MEETING. SHIH INDICATED THAT IN SO DOING LDC'S WOULD NOT TAKE A STANCE ON WHETHER THE MFA SHOULD BE RENEWED OR NOT BUT RATHER SAW NAIROBI AS A USEFUL
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VEHICLE TO PUT FURTHER PRESSURE ON IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

2. TOOKER OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT, BASED ON INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH A FEW LDC'S, ASKED SHIH WHETHER OR NOT LDC STRATEGY WAS TO TRY TO PUT THE MFA UNDER UNCTAD. HE DID THIS IN ORDER TO GAUGE REACTION OF SHIH, WHO HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ASIAN DELEGATIONS SINCE BANGKOK. SHIH INDICATED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE ALTHOUGH HE IMPLIED THAT THIS MAY BE A FORM OF EXERTING PRESSURE. SHIH REITERATED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO MFA QUESTIONS DURING THE NAIROBI MEETING. DALE

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Message Attributes

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